

UK Coalition Government Sets Out The Most Significant Changes In History For The NHS

The United Kingdom's coalition Government has published a white paper on health reform, on 12 July, setting out the most significant reorganisation of the NHS in its history.

The white paper, *Equity and excellence: liberating the NHS*, has implications for all health organisations in the NHS and very significant changes for PCTs and strategic health authorities.

It focuses on the Government's wish to reduce bureaucracy by shifting power from the centre to GPs and patients, moving somewhere between £60 to £80 billion into the hands of groups of GPs to commission services.

Announcing the paper on 12 July, new health secretary Andrew Lansley told parliamentary colleagues of plans for all NHS trusts to become or be part of a foundation trust and used the white paper to reiterate three key principles:

- patients at the centre of the NHS
- changing the emphasis of measurement to clinical outcomes
- empowering health professionals, in particular GPs